

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE**

**STATEMENT OF
DR. DALE KLEIN
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND
BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS
BEFORE THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PROJECT BIO SHIELD
APRIL 4, 2003**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE**

**Statement of Dr. Dale Klein,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense
Programs
Before the House Government Reform Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Hearing on Project Bio Shield: Contracting for the Health and Security of the American
Public**

Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members, I was appointed to my present position by President Bush in November 2001, following the advice and consent of the Senate. Within the Department of Defense, I have responsibility for all matters concerning the formulation of policy and plans for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs. In this role, I am responsible for the DoD programs to develop and field the biological countermeasures our warfighting force needs. I am the focal point for the oversight, coordination and integration of the Department's medical and non-medical chemical and biological defense research, development, and acquisition efforts. I want to assure the committee that the Department's Chemical Biological Defense Program is a top priority for the senior leadership of the Department and the Services. Due to the support of the Congress and with the help of the resources you have made available to the Department; our fighting forces are equipped and trained far better than in 1991 during OPERATION DESERT STORM.

We are very interested in prompt approval of the Administration's **Project BioShield** initiative. New authorities are needed, with appropriate safeguards, to assure rapid and effective medical treatments can be introduced quickly to counter weapons of mass destruction. The President's **Project BioShield** initiative would increase the Food and Drug Administration's authority to approve needed medical products in response to declaration of an emergency issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that is based on findings by the Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Defense.

We stand ready to work with DHHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make sure that DoD's biological countermeasure requirements are considered in their strategic plan. This is particularly important in the area of Installation Protection; because Service members and their families residing on or off military facilities, are the foundation of our military combat power. These citizens are the ultimate protectors of our Constitution.. In the Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04), we have requested funding to support improved Installation Protection

for DoD facilities. The FY04 program will provide protection coverage to an additional 15 DoD installations. This protection will include sensors to detect chemical, biological, and radiological threats. The equipment to be deployed will be integrated in the base operational command and control infrastructure. Bio-detection equipment will consist of automated Joint Biological Point Detection Systems and Portal Shield systems along with manual dry filter unit samplers. Support from laboratories will consist of tiered, multi-technology, confirmatory testing protocols. Chemical detection will be provided by an Automatic Chemical Agent Detector Alarm and the Joint Chemical Agent Detector integrated with base command and control systems. The program will procure initial detection agent consumables, new equipment training, spares, contractor logistics support and operators.

DoD has many years of experience in areas covered by the Bill and we stand ready to assist the civilian agencies in their efforts to provide modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against attack by biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons. The Department looks forward to working closely with the Congress, the DHHS and DHS to collaborate as required to improve our preparedness.

The DoD Joint Chemical Biological Defense Program's initiatives over the last decade have significantly improved our ability to protect Service members from the effects of chemical and biological weapons. Initiatives have resulted in improvements in the whole family of chemical and biological defense systems, including improved detection and identification technologies, improved individual protection systems, improved decontaminants, and improved medical protection against potential chemical and biological agents. The research funded by the Department is providing essential information that can lead to even higher levels of protection for our forces in medical detection, surveillance, prevention, and treatment. In today's age, this research also has applicability for all of our citizens and our allies. For example, the Department is working in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in researching anti-viral, smallpox and related pathogens countermeasures.

We continue to work in close consultation and coordination with agencies across the federal government, as we make significant advances in protecting our military forces against the biological weapons threat. We are working with DHHS and other federal agencies to develop a next generation anthrax vaccine for future use. Recent funding provided to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has stimulated coordination and cooperation with

the DoD medical biological defense research program. Initiatives are under way for close collaboration between scientists in both organizations.

Mr. Chairman, in summation I want to re-emphasize that the Department supports the President's **Project BioShield** initiative- a comprehensive effort to develop and make available modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against attack by biological and chemical weapons or other dangerous pathogens. We believe that **Project BioShield** has the potential to provide mutual benefits and advances for DoD personnel, the American public, and our allies. By bringing researchers, medical experts, and the biomedical industry together in a new and focused way, our Nation can achieve new breakthroughs for biological medical defense.